



# BEFORE DAWN

WEEK OF AUGUST 31, 2014

TIME TO MOVE • EXODUS 5-6:12 • MESSAGE 3

~ It's always dark before the dawn ~

## Before Pharaoh (Exodus 5:1-21)

**Pharaoh's Perspective:** Why is change hard for some people?

When someone tries to change things on you how do you usually respond?

Have you ever been in a church that went through some big changes? How did that process go?

**The Israelites' Perspective:** When God didn't come through like they thought he would, the Israelites lashed out at Moses and Aaron. Have you ever seen someone respond to disappointment by lashing out? Why do we do that?

## Before God (Exodus 5:22-6:8)

Moses does a good thing by bringing his disappointment straight to God. How does God answer Moses' questions?

## Don't forget the plan! (Exodus 3:18-22)

Back in Exodus 3:18-22, God had given the plan to Moses, and everything in chapters 4-6 has gone according to that plan, but part of God's plan is for Pharaoh to say "no" until God "compels" him.

This raises a very important question: If God has the power to "compel" Pharaoh, then why doesn't he do it right away?

*God's final goal is for the Egyptians to send the Israelites away with wealth, and for whatever reason, God thinks that his current method is the best way to accomplish that goal. So let's talk about what this means for us.*

## Take it Home

Looking at **Exodus 6:9-12**, we see that Moses and the Israelites allowed themselves to get fully discouraged, but for us today, how can we fight that discouragement? How should Christians respond when God's good plan for them leads them into places of darkness and/or hardship?

It's possible that someone in your group tonight is facing a particularly dark time these days. If so, let's speak some encouragement to each other. These questions might help:

1. Are you facing a time of change?
2. Has God somehow disappointed you or allowed hardship in your life?

**3. Is there something you have forgotten about God?**

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